

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

9TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
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April 28, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am submitting a Community Project Funding request for Research and Development of Next Generation Explosives and Propellants in Fiscal Year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, located at the Propulsion & Energetics Laboratory, Randolph Hall, Rm. 127, 460 Old Turner St., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Funding would be used to conduct novel experiments related to the additive manufacturing, testing, and evaluation of propellants and energetics and to employ additional energetics-focused faculty, staff, post-doctoral researchers, and graduate student researchers.

Specifically, funding would support the purchase of multi-material energetics printing machines, x-ray imaging, planar laser-induced fluorescence diagnostic equipment, explosive materials, ingredients, reagents for testing, instructional equipment, and fund senior capstone and internships specific to the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP) in my district. RAAP is the primary supplier of solventless propellants and the only North American manufacturer and supplier of nitrocellulose. This production is essential to munition manufacture and our national security industrial base.

It is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars because the Department of Defense could benefit from the results of these experiments by the possible creation of controllable munitions and new explosive manufacturing techniques. Additionally, the Department of Defense will benefit from a larger talent pool of energetic engineers and from Virginia Tech researchers' and students' collaboration with RAAP personnel on specific explosive manufacturing techniques.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Morgan Griffith", is written over the printed name and title.

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress